

Message Text

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62

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DRAFTED BY INR/RNA/SOA:WDHOWELLS:MH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

S E C R E T STATE 112408

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AND INTENTIONS

1. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IS IN PROCESS OF PREPARING SHORT DEADLINE ASSESSMENT OF INDIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS.
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PORTION DEALING WITH INTENTIONS AS FOLLOWS: QTE INDIA'S LIKELY APPRECIATION (DURING THE REST OF THE DECADE) OF DESIRABILITY OF ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND A DELIVERY SYSTEM VERSUS RETAINING ONLY A DEMONSTRATIVE CAPABILITY IN VIEW OF:
 - THE STRATEGIC NEED FOR DELIVERABLE NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES;
 - INTERNAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FACTORS;
 - THE LIKELY REACTIONS OF OTHER NATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE US, THE USSR CHINA AND PAKISTAN TO INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST AND TO FUTURE INDIAN NUCLEAR DECISIONS. UNQTE.
3. WOULD APPRECIATE COUNTRY TEAM COMMENTS ON THESE QUESTIONS PREFERABLY BY COB JUNE 3 SO AS TO BE AVAILABLE EARLY IN DRAFTING AND DISCUSSION SESSIONS. BROWN

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